IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for operating a network server to discourage use that disproportionately depletes server resources such as distribution of large media files, wherein the server is connected to a plurality of client devices, and configured to transfer information between selected ones of the client devices and a memory for static storage of information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to transfer a file between the memory and one of the plurality of client devices;

removing a packet of information from the file after said receiving step, the packet of information comprising a defined number of information bits substantially less than a total number of information bits in the file;

transferring the packet of information from the memory to a lower-level network component operative to configure the packet as at least one lower-level packet according to a protocol of a packet-switched network for transmission to the one of the plurality of client devices after said removing step;

pausing for a defined delay period after at least one of said removing and said transferring steps; and

repeating said removing step, said transferring step, and said pausing step in any operative order until all of the file has been transferred to the lower-level network component, wherein at least one of the delay period and the defined number of information bits in the information packet is controlled so as to cause later-transferred portions of the file to be delayed by progressively increasing amounts until all portions of the file have been transferred, whereby the entire file is transferred at a rate that decreases with increasing file size.

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2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising increasing the defined delay period ~~to define an ever-increasing delay period~~ during after each iteration of the repeating step.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting the defined delay period to a selected predetermined value after each execution of said pausing step.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising initializing the defined delay period to a calculated value prior to said removing step.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising initializing the defined delay period to a selected predetermined value prior to said removing step.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting the defined delay period to a calculated value after each execution of said pausing step.

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 6, further comprising determining the calculated value from the file size or file type.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting the defined number of information bits in the packet of information to a calculated value after each execution of said pausing step.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting the defined number of information bits in the packet of information to a selected predetermined value after each execution of said pausing step.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising initializing the defined number of information bits in the packet of information prior to said removing step.

11. (Currently amended) A system for discouraging use of memory connected to a network where the use, such as distribution of large media files, disproportionately depletes server resources, the system comprising:

a memory for static storage of information;

a server connected to a plurality of client devices and to the memory, the server controlling access by the client devices to the memory; and

an application on the server for transferring information between selected ones of the client devices and the memory, the application comprising instructions to perform the steps of:

receiving a request to transfer a file between the memory and one of the plurality of client devices;

removing a packet of information from the file after the receiving step, the packet of information comprising a defined number of information bits substantially less than a total number of information bits in the file;

transferring the packet of information from the memory to a lower-level network component operative to configure the packet as at least one lower-level packet according to a protocol of a packet-switched network for transmission to the one of the plurality of client devices after the removing step;

pausing for a defined delay period after one of the removing and the transferring steps;

repeating the removing step, the transferring step, and the pausing step in any operative order until all of the file has been transferred to the lower-level network component, wherein at least one of the delay period and the defined number of information bits in the information packet is controlled so as to cause later-transferred portions of the file to be delayed by progressively increasing amounts until all portions of the file have been transferred, whereby the entire file is transferred at a rate that decreases with increasing file size.

12.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of increasing the defined delay period ~~to define an ever-increasing delay period during~~ after each iteration of the repeating step.

13.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of setting the defined delay period to a selected predetermined value after each execution of the pausing step.

14.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of initializing the defined delay period to a calculated value prior to the removing step.

15.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of initializing the defined delay period to a selected predetermined value prior to the removing step.

16.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of setting the defined delay period to a calculated value after each execution of the pausing step.

17.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of determining the calculated value from the file size or the file type.

18.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of setting the defined number of information bits in the packet of information to a calculated value after each execution of the pausing step.

19.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of setting the defined number of information bits in the packet of information to a selected predetermined value after each execution of the pausing step.

20.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the application further comprises instructions to perform the step of initializing the defined number of information bits in the packet of information prior to said removing step.